

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045781
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 ACDA-07 /039 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT - RPRACHT:JAS

APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT - RPRACHT

ACDA/IR - MEISENSTEIN

EUR/NE - SWORRELL

EUR/SOV - JCOLBERT

DOD/ISA - LJAMES

COMM/OEA - EWALINSKY

RPE

-----021408 107893 /43

R 020255Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045781

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UK, SU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UK EXPORT OF FUEL CONTROL SYSTEM TO
USSR

REF: (A) LONDON 2816, (B) STATE 7330

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMED BY UK EMBASSY JANUARY 11 OF POSSIBLE
SALE OF FUEL CONTROL SYSTEM TO USSR (REF B). AT THAT TIME,
UK EMBASSY WAS UNABLE SUPPLY SUFFICIENT DETAILS ON TRANSACTION
TO PERMIT EVALUATION AND US POSITION. MAIN QUESTIONS
WERE (1) WHETHER FUEL CONTROL SYSTEM USUABLE OR ADAPTABLE
TO THE RUSSIAN BACKFIRE BOMBER AND (2) WHETHER EXTRACTABLE
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OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE PROVIDED TO SOVIETS WHICH COULD
BE USED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF BACKFIRE BOMBER. WE CANNOT
ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS WITHOUT FULL TECHNICAL DETAILS OF
FUEL CONTROL SYSTEM AND FURTHER DETAILS ON CONTRACT MADE BY
LUCAS AEROSPACE WITH SOVIETS. THE UK EMBASSY HAD PROMISED
TO PROVIDE US WITH FURTHER DETAILS WHEN AVAILABLE.

2. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INITIAL USG CONCERN OVER THE PROPOSED SALE TO THE USSR. THIS IS BASED UPON PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS THAT THE SUBJECT TECHNOLOGY IF APPLIED TO THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER COULD IN PARTICULAR ASSURE GREATER RANGE/PAYLOAD CAPABILITY OF THEIR NAVAL AIR IN EUROPEAN AND NORTH ATLANTIC OPERATIONS. THE UK AS WELL AS OTHER NATO COUNTRIES SHOULD SHARE THIS CONCERN. SUCH TECHNOLOGY COULD ALSO BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE SOVIETS IN POWERING EXISTING AND FUTURE MILITARY AIRCRAFT. INCREASED RANGE CAPABILITIES FOR THE BACKFIRE WOULD ALSO GIVE GREATER CREDENCE TO ESTIMATES OF THE BACKFIRE LONG RANGE STRATEGIC BOMBER ROLE, WHICH IS AN ISSUE COMPLICATING SALT NEGOTIATIONS. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL STUDY OF SUBJECT EQUIPMENT WILL BE NEEDED TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS.

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DRAFTED BY: EB/ITP:EWT-RPRACHT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045781

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REF: LONDON 4318

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 45781 ACTION OECD PARIS DTD 02 MAR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 2937507
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: POSSIBLE UK EXPORT OF FUEL CONTROL SYSTEM TO USSR
TAGS: ESTC, UK, UR, COCOM
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
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